

## MINUTES ADOPTED BY CITY COUNCIL

November 6, 2006  
Greenville, NC

The Greenville City Council met in a regular meeting on the above date at 6:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers, third floor of City Hall, with Mayor Robert D. Parrott presiding. The meeting was called to order, followed by the invocation by Mayor Parrott and the pledge of allegiance to the flag. The following were present.

Mayor Robert D. Parrott  
Mayor Pro-Tem Mildred A. Council  
Council Member Ray Craft  
Council Member Pat Dunn  
Council Member Rose H. Glover  
Council Member Chip Little  
Council Member Larry Spell  
City Manager Wayne Bowers  
City Attorney Dave Holec  
City Clerk Wanda Elks

### APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion was made by Council Member Little and seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Council to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

### SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS

#### Report on City's 2006 United Way Campaign

City Manager Bowers recognized and presented certificates of personal recognition to Cheryl Tafoya and Gloria Kesler, Co-Chairs of the United Way Campaign, for their efforts in the 2006 United Way Campaign.

Ms. Tafoya and Ms. Kesler reported on the funds received and thanked everyone who allowed them to work on the campaign. Contributions from the departments totaled \$69,804.87, and various raffles and fundraisers brought the total up to \$73,435.67.

### CONSENT AGENDA

Motion was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Council and seconded by Council Member Spell to approve the consent agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

1. Minutes from the September 25, October 9, and October 12, 2006 City Council Meetings
2. Various tax refunds
3. Acceptance of 2005-2006 Appointment Reporting Forms

4. Maintenance Agreement with the North Carolina Department of Transportation for an emergency vehicle traffic signal on Tenth Street at Fire/Rescue Station No. 6 (Contract No. 1543)
5. Maintenance agreement with the North Carolina Department of Transportation for sweeping state system streets within the corporate limits of the City of Greenville (Contract No. 1544)

## PRESENTATIONS BY BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

### Redevelopment Commission

Ms. Minnie Anderson, Chairman of the Redevelopment Commission, stated that it has worked hard to make Greenville a model city. Positive changes are beginning to be seen along Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive. It is hoped that soon this will be a community that they can be proud of and an opportunity for economic development that will meet the needs of the people of the community and the city. Ms. Anderson reported on the following:

Center City Design Standards. City staff has worked with a group of volunteer design professionals and business leaders to delineate a study area and develop a conceptual framework for a set of guidelines. In October the working group hosted a well-attended open house. Based on public comment and additional research, the working group will write a first draft of the guidelines and present them to the community at a Winter 2007 workshop.

Adaptive Reuse Studies of Historic Warehouses. There continues to be an interest from the private sector in redeveloping certain sites associated with Greenville's historic tobacco industry into new uses. There have been discussions between local and out-of-town developers to redevelop areas along Dickinson Avenue and Evans Street with new construction as well as adaptive reuse of existing structures. Such a development could provide housing for a variety of income levels as well as commercial space. A recent study commissioned by the Historic Preservation Commission has indicated that it may be feasible to create a national historic district along Dickinson Avenue. Should such a district be designated, property owners in the district would be able to receive significant tax credits on their properties. If this is realized, people will be able to walk down Dickinson Avenue and to the Town Commons, shopping at the other businesses along the route. There will be museums, galleries, and other shops along the way, and customers will be able to park, spend the day, eat and relax downtown.

West Greenville Facade Grants. City staff developed a set of guidelines for the West Greenville Building Blocks Facade Improvement Program. City Council provided funding for the program in August. The grant program was advertised in October. It is expected that the Redevelopment Commission will consider and fund applications at the December meeting.

West Greenville Business Plan Competition. This plan should be ready by spring. City staff has worked with the office of the North Carolina Small Business Technology Development Center to develop program guidelines for the business plan competition. They will be available in the fall, and it is expected that the program will be advertised and that the competition will begin in the latter part of the winter and early spring.

Ms. Anderson stated that the Redevelopment Commission is working on many projects and trying to meet deadlines they set for themselves.

West Greenville Small Business Loans. City staff is coordinating with the Community Investment Corporation of North Carolina to design a small business loan pool to serve the Center City/West Greenville Revitalization Area. It is expected that several local banks will participate in the pool, with participation level based on the market share held by each institution. The City Council funded this initiative, along with others, and it is expected that this program will come on-line in the spring.

West Greenville Scattered Sites Multi-Family/Big House Project. The Redevelopment Commission has selected Landlord Development Corporation as its partner to prepare a low-income tax credit application for construction of affordable multi-family housing. If funded, it will provide approximately \$.90 on the dollar in tax credit equity for the construction of 52 units of affordable housing along Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive. Once constructed, the units will be marketed and rented to individuals and families with incomes equal to or less than sixty percent of the area's median income. The tax credit application is currently being prepared and will be submitted in early January.

Streetscape Pilot Projects. Through a nearly nine-month process that included substantial participation, the Streetscape Master Plan has been completed and presented to the Redevelopment Commission. In consultation with the City Council, the pilot project should be ready in early 2008. The Council has allocated funding for the Redevelopment Commission to proceed with detailed planning for these projects for the Center City and West Greenville Bond funds.

West Greenville Rezoning. It would be appropriate to consider rezoning of much of the Center City/West Greenville Revitalization Area due to the impact on ongoing real property acquisitions related to various projects. One exception is the core of the West Greenville neighborhood recently rezoned R-6. Initial studies conducted by City staff indicate that it would be appropriate to rezone this area R-6 in accordance with the Revitalization Plan. As such, the Redevelopment Commission initiated a rezoning at the September meeting. Since that time, the Greenville Planning and Zoning Commission has acted to recommend the zoning changes and it will be on the Council agenda for consideration in December.

First Street Redevelopment. City staff has received significant interest in this project from two separate developers. In order to determine the viability of such a project, the Redevelopment Commission authorized staff to commission a market study to examine the need for a mixed use project along First Street. A firm has been selected to conduct the study market with the results of their work expected in early December.

The Intergenerational Community Center. Following the purchase by the City of the St. Gabriels Church and School site on Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive, City staff has worked diligently to negotiate agreements with East Carolina University, Pitt Community College and other potential service providers on management and program provisions within the center. It is expected that some programs could commence before the end of 2006.

Ms. Anderson concluded by commending the Planning staff, who, she stated, does an excellent job. She asked that the Council provide more help so the work could be completed in an even more timely manner.

Mayor Parrott thanked Ms. Anderson and the other members of the Redevelopment Commission for their efforts in making Greenville a better place.

#### ORDINANCE PROHIBITING THE DISCHARGE OF BOWS AND ARROWS AND CROSSBOWS - ADOPTED

Mr. Dave Holec, City Attorney, reminded the Council that at the September 14, 2006 City Council meeting, staff was asked to develop, in consultation with a committee of citizens who have knowledge about archery, a proposed ordinance which regulates the discharge of bows and arrows. Council indicated that the citizen committee should include Mitch Mitchum and John Dill, who addressed Council during the public comment period on this issue in September, and someone who has knowledge of the archery requirements of Boy Scouts. Howard Vainright, Parks Coordinator, compiled a group of citizens to lend their expertise in developing the regulations, and the committee met several times. He met with the committee on two occasions. Their efforts resulted in a proposed ordinance for City Council to consider. The ordinance states the general rule that the discharge of bows and arrows and crossbows within the City is not allowed. It provides an exception to the general rule for archery ranges, toys (foam projectiles), and in controlled situations by responsible persons. The controlled situation by responsible person exception is:

- The archer and the target are on property owned or leased by the archer or which he has written permission to use.
- The discharge is to a backstop of at least 6' x 6' in size and at least one inch thick. The wall of a building may serve as the backstop. The target is to be placed at ground level at the mid-point in width of the backstop so that the arrow has a downward trajectory.
- The arrow or projectile may not go over or upon someone else's property except with their written permission.
- Persons under 16 must be supervised by someone 21 or older who is present.
- Only target or field tips may be used.

Mr. Holec stated that the committee also asked that a publication providing information about the safe nature of the sport of archery be created. The committee believes that these are reasonable regulations. Two members of the committee, Mitch Mitchum and John Dill, were present.

Council Member Craft called upon Mr. Mitchum to clarify that he is comfortable with the ordinance; however, he disagrees with a need for the ordinance. Council Member Craft stated that he has heard from others with this opinion, also.

Mr. Mitchum stated that is correct and the reason is that there has not been an incident reported. He further stated that there was a general consensus of all committee members that they didn't want an ordinance; however, they wanted to be open-minded and responsible.

Upon being asked the process for a violation, City Attorney Holec stated that it would be a \$50 fine and a violation could potentially be cited. One would need to call the Police Department to report the violation.

Council Member Spell thanked the City staff and members of the committee for trying to come up with something for safe practice. This is a great compromise that allows the safe use of bows on property and prevents injuries.

Council Member Dunn asked if there is anything in the ordinance that is not necessary.

Mr. Mitchum was asked if there is anything that he would not do as a responsible person that is not addressed, and he replied that he has an exception on his lot because there are lots around him that have not been sold. Therefore, he would not have to have the backstop in his yard. The committee tried to come up with backstop that would take care of everyone.

Mr. Craft expressed that he did not feel the ordinance is needed because nothing is going to stop all the public safety issues. The City needs to educate the public instead of creating an ordinance about it.

Motion was made by Council Member Spell and seconded by Council Member Dunn to adopt the ordinance prohibiting the discharge of bows and arrows and crossbows. Motion carried with a vote of 4:2. Council Members Spell, Little, Dunn and Glover voted in favor of the motion. Mayor Pro-Tem Council and Council Member Craft voted in opposition. (Ordinance No. 06-107)

#### AGREEMENTS WITH THE NORTH CAROLINA HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION AND UNIVERSITY HEALTH SYSTEMS OF EASTERN CAROLINA FOR THE EASTERN REGIONAL BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT - APPROVED

City Manager Bowers stated that the Eastern Regional Basketball Tournament has been coordinated by the Chamber of Commerce with input from the School System. The City was asked to take over operating the Eastern Regional Basketball Tournament. The 2006 tournament was conducted through the Recreation and Parks Department. The contract builds on the success of this year's tournament, which is a good tournament for the teams and the community. The North Carolina High School Athletic Association is willing to enter into a four-year contract, which goes through 2010. The contract requires that the City sponsor the tournament at a level of at least \$40,000. In order to make sure the City can cover it, University Health Systems has agreed to continue their sponsorship of \$40,000 for the next four years. The City has a commitment of \$1,500 as an annual sponsorship for each of the next four years from the Convention and Visitors Authority. Other than continuing to cover the contract for the tournament director, there will be no outlay to the city. The agreement with the North Carolina High School Athletic Association (NCHSAA) requires the City to provide annual sponsorship funds of \$40,000. The agreement with University Health Systems commits the \$40,000 annual sponsorship. One contract is contingent upon the other.

Motion was made by Council Member Craft and seconded by Council Member Little to approve the Agreements with the North Carolina High School Athletic Association and University Health Systems of Eastern Carolina for the Eastern Regional Basketball Tournament. Motion carried unanimously. (Contract Nos. 1336C and 1554)

CREATION OF THE CITY OF GREENVILLE-EAST CAROLINA UNIVERSITY TASK FORCE TO STUDY STUDENT-RELATED ALCOHOL ISSUES - APPROVED

City Manager Bowers reminded the Council that during the intercity visit to Athens, Georgia, in April, the University of Georgia and community representatives described a successful task force that studied student-related alcohol issues in that community. City and East Carolina University participants who participated in the intercity visit expressed support for a similar effort in Greenville. During the May 11, 2006 City Council meeting, he presented a draft proposal to establish a joint City-University task force. The City Council endorsed the concept and requested that he present the proposal to East Carolina. The Chancellor has approved ECU participation in the task force and has designated five University representatives. It is suggested that the task force look at alcohol abuse on and off the campus. It would serve on an ad hoc basis for some period of time and make a recommendation back to the Chancellor and City. City Manager Bowers recommended that the Council officially approve the proposal and, if it does, to appoint a City Council member in the future to serve on the task force and to designate other positions not specifically designated.

Motion was made by Council Member Little and seconded by Council Member Craft to create the City of Greenville-East Carolina University Task Force to study student-related alcohol issues. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion was made by Council Member Spell and seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Council to have Council Member Dunn to serve as the Council representative. Motion carried unanimously.

Council Member Glover expressed concern about creating a task force to study alcohol among students when it would be more beneficial to put those efforts toward reducing crime, murders, and the guns on the street. Studying alcohol among college students is a waste of time, time that could be spent studying what makes people kill each other and commit other crimes.

Council Member Little stated that they don't have to focus on one particular issue. If there needs to be discussion on the other issues, he is in agreement. The alcohol abuse among students was something that was studied in Athens, and they studied how to better educate students, how leaders of the city can do a better job of educating youth with drinking and underage drinking as well.

Council Member Glover stated that if they are going to discuss high school drinking, there needs to be someone from a high school on this committee. High school students drink and do drugs. She doesn't want to tie up staff time studying university students when her concern is making it through the week without someone getting murdered.

Council Member Dunn stated that the task force will address some of those concerns, as stated in the objectives for the task force. Over half of the crimes of violence are committed while one is under the influence of alcohol or some other drug.

After discussion on the issue, Council Member Little stated that the concept was presented May 11 and the Council endorsed it. The University has gotten its representation together.

Council Member Dunn stated that there is a gang task force to address some of the issues Council Member Glover is concerned about.

Mayor Parrott stated that everyone on the Council is concerned about the crime and violence in the City. He called for a re-vote on the motion to create the City of Greenville-East Carolina University Task Force to Study Student-Related Alcohol Issues, and it again carried unanimously.

#### REVIEW OF NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION DRAFT TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM 2007-2013

Mr. Kyle Garner, Transportation Planner, informed the Council that every two years, the North Carolina Department of Transportation updates the State Transportation Improvement Program. As part of its update process, comments are solicited from all Metropolitan Planning Organizations. The Greenville Urban Area MPO is in the process of formulating its comments on behalf of all the local government members, which includes the City of Greenville. The Draft 2007-2013 State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) shows the projects and schedules within Pitt County. They are currently in the public involvement and public comment period. As part of the MPO process, the process will be to present to other members of the MPO area a presentation similar to this. Staff is asking the Council to review the projects along with the comparison table and provide feedback. There will be an open house session on November 14, 2006, at 5:30 at Sheppard Memorial Library. Following the public involvement process, staff will be submitting recommendations to the Technical Coordinating Committee, who will make a recommendation to the Transportation Advisory Committee. Mr. Garner then presented the top priorities as follows:

- MPO Highway Priority #1: Southwest Bypass. This is a project that will cost approximately \$180 million and will consist of 11 miles, depending on which of the three alternatives are chosen by the North Carolina Department of Transportation. The project is to construct a four-lane fully controlled facility from US 264 west of Greenville to NC 11 south of Ayden. The draft EIS for this project has been completed, and it is pending the selection of the preferred corridor by the Department of Transportation. The purpose and need is to reduce traffic congestion along Memorial Drive (NC 11). The Southwest Bypass will add a critical link of controlled access freeway along NC 11 from the Global Transpark to the Tidewater area of Virginia.
- MPO Highway Priority #2: Fire Tower Road Widening. This project is the number two priority and will be a two-year construction project. The bid was \$21 million for this project and it is being rebid. This is done by NCDOT. This project consists of widening the existing

roadway to a four-lane divided five-lane section to include multi-modal facilities, and landscaping improvements from Corey Road to Memorial Drive (NC 11/903). Construction is scheduled to begin in 2007. This project will increase the capacity of Fire Tower Road and reduce congestion along Greenville Boulevard and Memorial Drive. It will provide an additional east/west travel capacity in a high growth area. NCDOT's project is aggressive with affirmative action. There are federal dollars associated with this, and that requires them to be more aggressive.

- MPO Highway Priority #3: Tenth Street Connector. The City, Hospital and University have each contributed \$2 million toward this project, for a total of \$6 million. The project is to extend Tenth Street from Dickinson Avenue to Memorial Drive at Stantonsburg Road with a grade separation at CSX Railroad. This provides east/west travel through the heart of Greenville connecting the Hospital, East Carolina University, Uptown and West Greenville. The planning and environmental studies are underway. The right-of-way acquisition is scheduled to be done in 2009 and the project completed in 2011. The current total estimated cost is \$21 million.
- MPO Highway Priority #4: Evans Street/Old Tar Road Widening. This project is to widen the existing roadway to a four/five lane urban facility with multi-modal and landscaping improvements from Greenville Boulevard to Worthington Road and Cooper Street. It increases the capacity along Evans Street/Old Tar Road, reduces congestion along Memorial Boulevard, and connects to the residential areas in Winterville to nearby commercial centers. The planning and environmental studies are ongoing for the entire section. There is no schedule for construction at this time. This is a \$2 million project.

Mr. Garner then reported on two items that were added to the TIP that were not in the previous TIP.

- Relocation of the CXS Rail Switching Station and track improvements on the Norfolk Southern and CSX systems. The study is currently in progress. The draft STIP proposes construction for 2008. The estimated cost is \$3.1 million.
- NC 43 improvements from B's Barbeque Road to US 264. This project includes widening NC 43 North to a four-lane divided facility from B's Barbeque Road to US 264.
- Greenville Boulevard Widening. This is the newest project, which is to widen Greenville Boulevard to a six-lane facility with intersection improvements from Memorial Drive to Charles Boulevard. It adds travel capacity to the critical commercial corridor. The current traffic volumes range from 30,000 to 45,000 average daily trips. The corridor study has been completed, and the City is awaiting funding to begin planning and environmental studies.

The following questions were asked and responses given by Mr. Tysinger.

1. Does adding something to the State TIP jeopardize something with a higher priority?  
(RESPONSE: It depends on whether the project was included as a funded or unfunded project. They would probably put this project in as an unfunded



project, which would probably not affect the funding of projects with a higher priority.)

2. Would the widening affect the other businesses in there?  
(RESPONSE: It would. He has informed the MPO about that.)
3. Has there been any discussion about the railroad tracks on Memorial Drive?  
(RESPONSE: That is a maintenance related issue, and they will bring it to the attention of DOT as well as the railway.)
4. The relocating switching station may solve some problems; however, there would still be some problems. A solution could be to have a curved track. Is there something being done about this?  
(RESPONSE: That is part of the project.)
5. What will happen about sidewalks and bike lanes on Tenth and Fourteenth Streets?  
(RESPONSE: Staff is working on the sidewalk construction program for this fiscal year. It will probably be some time after the first of the year before it is brought forward. It is hoped that dollars can be leveraged with East Carolina, Pitt Memorial Hospital and the Department of Transportation. Staff is working on that.)
6. Aren't there other alternatives to widening Greenville Boulevard to six lanes?  
(RESPONSE: Staff made a presentation regarding the study in June and outlined a number of improvements that could be made without widening the street to six lanes. The widening was included in the State TIP because it is the biggest piece of the puzzle. Intersection improvements can be made that will alleviate much of the congestion.)
7. Does a project need to be included in the TIP in order to be in the funding loop?  
(RESPONSE: Yes. Smaller projects may be pulled out to work on.)

Mr. Garner explained the next steps, which is to provide a presentation to the other members of the MPO and to make a presentation to the NC Department of Transportation in Snow Hill on November 29.

#### REVIEW OF NOVEMBER 9, 2006 CITY COUNCIL AGENDA

The Council did a cursory review of the agenda items on the November 9, 2006 City Council Meeting agenda and reviewed the appointments to Boards and Commissions.

(NOTE: Council Member Little left the meeting at 7:00 p.m.)

City Manager Bowers stated that he may ask the Council to continue the renaming of Elm Street Gym as the Drew Steele Special Needs Center, depending on the outcome of a meeting going on tonight.

City Manager Bowers stated that Community Development has been working with the Ferguson Group and has learned that the City can submit a Brownfields application under a federal program. He asked that this item be added to the November 9, 2006 City Council agenda.

Motion was made by Council Member Craft and seconded by Council Member Spell to add the Brownfields application to the November 9, 2006 City Council agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

#### COMMENTS FROM MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

Council Member Glover stated that the Police Community Relations Committee will meet November 7, 2006 in Room 337 of City Hall. She stated that the new Police Chief, William Anderson, has helped the community, especially in Districts 1 and 2. Because of his efforts, a lot of people are willing to talk with the police and work with them to eradicate some of the crime. He has been building bridges and that is appreciated. The Chief and his officers have her support 100%.

Council Member Dunn reminded everyone to vote tomorrow. She thanked Gloria Kesler and Cheryl Tafoya for the job they did with the United Way. She was downtown on Halloween night. ECU had a nice alcohol-free party for the students. She is tickled about the financial status of the City and the good rating with Moodys.

Council Member Craft expressed appreciation to Merrill Flood and the Community Development staff. One of the board members of the Little Willie Center expressed appreciation for how well the meeting went. They were excited about being a potential candidate for the St. Gabriels project. He further suggested that the Council receive a short presentation on what took place with the money the Ferguson Group got the City for Greenville Mill Run, as one of the County Commissioners asked about that, about trying to improve the water flow in Green Mill Run and other areas. He further asked if the Department of Transportation will sweep the street before the City takes over, to which Mr. Tysinger responded that DOT has agreed to clean the gutters out at this point before the City sweeps them. As far as transition from the State and local governments doing this, there is a trend. If the streets are to look like the City wants them to look, it should take them over and let the Department of Transportation fund as much as they can. The agreement is for the City to sweep three times per year, and the rate they are paying is fair. It may need to be done four times.

Mayor Pro-Tem Council thanked the churches that have been engaged in working with young people, such as Community Christian Church having the beginning of the school year event, Koinonia having a Halloween event, and the things the New Generation Church has done. Youth need to be engaged in positive things. It is hoped that there will be more positive results with other people and churches taking roles. She attended a resources fair to ensure people with disabilities had information. Bob Thompson is a strong advocate to ensure that people get involved and use the resources in the community such as Greenville's transportation from Public Works. Public Works is very involved in the resources fair. Mayor Pro-Tem Council further stated that the Sheppard Memorial Library Board will be meeting in a couple of weeks and she will get some new reports there.

Mayor Pro-Tem Council stated that she has retired from the State of North Carolina with 32 years of service. She thanked the City, staff and Council for supporting sickle cell disease. She has begun a scholarship for youth with sickle cell disease. Since she has retired, she will continue to work with the youth.

Council Member Spell echoed Council Member Dunn's call to get out and vote. He announced the changes in the voting places for some citizens. He thanked the Greenville Police Department for a smooth Halloween. He was downtown on Halloween from 11:30 to 1:30. He has received no e-mails regarding problems about Halloween. Council Member Spell also thanked the Redevelopment Commission for listening to the public.

Mayor Parrott congratulated Mayor Pro-Tem Council for her service to the State of North Carolina.

### CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

City Manager Bowers reminded the Council that at the joint meeting with the Washington Council, it was agreed that a joint committee would be created. With Council's approval, he will put this together with the Manager of Washington. There was discussion about appointing two Council Members. If it is okay with the Council, he will bring that back in December. The consensus of the Council was for him to proceed.

City Manager Bowers reminded the Council that the 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Caring is Sharing drive is underway. The Kidsfest will be on the Town Commons on Saturday, November 11, and the drive will run through November 15. He announced the drop-off points. On November 8, the City will provide free GREAT rides for people providing two or more items when they get on the bus.

City Manager Bowers stated that the Museum of Art changed the art in City Hall today.

### ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Council Member Craft and seconded by Council Member Spell to adjourn the meeting at 7:30 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Wanda T. Elks, MMC  
City Clerk